

Brilliant Soper finally beaten by Worley

BROMLEY 0, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

THE brilliance of goalkeeper Alan Soper almost enabled Bromley's harassed defence to keep a "clean sheet" for only the second time this season in last Saturday's Isthmian League tussle at Hayes Lane. But former England amateur international Len Worley grabbed a 79th minute goal to give Wycombe a deserved win (writes Tony Flood).

Right-winger Worley, so often Bromley's tormentor in recent seasons, had been subdued for most of the match, due mainly to the fact that left-back Les Brockman played above himself.

Worley's goal gave Wycombe the "double" over Bromley for the second successive season and inflicted upon the home side their second defeat in a row. Bromley, having lost their first six games and avoided defeat in the next six, certainly do not do things by halves.

In order to be more consistent they should acquire some new players. Three ex-Bromley players in the crowd, Denis Studley, Roy Agar and Dave Hall, must have realised that at least three of the present side are not up to the generally accepted Isthmian League standard.

LATE START

Third-in-the-table Wycombe did not seem in any hurry to repeat the 5-0 win they recorded against Bromley in the opening game of the season—they were held up by traffic and this meant the kick-off was 10 minutes late.

Bromley, lying third from bottom, benefited from this as Pat Brown was also late. With Amato and Green unfit, Bromley still had the problem of who to play as link-man with Pettet in their 4-2-4 formation.

Amato's replacement, Colin Brown, got the job and did it quite well—with occasional help from the deep-lying Stonebridge—despite having to go off for treatment to a nose bleed.

As would be expected from a side that had lost only one of their last seven games, Bromley showed that their work rate has improved since coach Alan Basham took over, but, as he points out, some players are not at peak fitness.

Bromley had several let-offs, the first coming in the 26th minute from a Worley

corner. Although Stephenson got the ball in the net, referee D Jackson ruled that Soper had already been fouled.

Bonney, so often the target for the fans' boos, then almost put Bromley in trouble again when he took the ball out of Soper's hands. Now the pressure was on and Worley foxed Brockman to get over a menacing cross which Soper punched from under the bar.

OFF THE LINE

One minute later a header by Rundle beat Soper, but Brockman nodded off the line. Wycombe remained on the attack until half-time, with Bromley unable to improve upon their early scoring chances which had seen Maskell save a Nottage header and a long range lob from Mears.

Wycombe again went all out for a goal in the second half and the climax came in the 64th minute when the overworked Soper could not hold a stinging drive from Ward and Brockman had to clear off the line once more.

Bromley at last hit back and when Maskell went up to take a header from Nottage, the onrushing Lennox jostled the ball from his grasp, forcing it to bounce against the post.

Bromley were not prepared for a counter attack, however, and when dangerman Worley switched into the middle in the 79th minute, they left him unmarked. Former Spurs winger Worley took full advantage by turning in a cross from Horseman.

NO PENALTY

Worley was then fouled by Brockman, but Mr. Jackson surprisingly ruled that the offence occurred outside the penalty area. Worley took the free-kick himself and Thomas' diving header flashed just wide.

Bromley managed one last attempt at an equaliser, but Nottage's low shot was smothered by Maskell at the foot of a post.

Bromley: Soper, Bridge, Brockman, P. Brown, Bonney, Pettet, C. Brown, Lennox, Stonebridge, Nottage, Mears. Sub: Owen (not needed).

Wycombe: Maskell, Temel, Gale, Rundle, Stephenson, Thomas, Worley, Baker, Horseman, Ward, Anthony. Sub: Samuels (not needed).

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